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Tab I

NSC REVIEW COMPLETED

PROPOSED NEGID FOR EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

1. Definition

"Exploitation" does not mean verbatim translation. It involves reading the original material in the foreign language and summarizing or extracting the pertinent information in English. It is the only efficient method by which the tremendous volume of published foreign material can be processed for intelligence information. The technique requires a degree of substantive competence and a knowledge of intelligence requirements as well as linguistic ability. It was developed by FDD through the exploitation of captured documents.

2. Background

a. In 1946, the Departments of the Army and the Navy transferred their joint Washington Documents Center to CIA, which officially undertook the exploitation of captured Japanese documents "for the benefit of all the intelligence agencies". In 1947, at the request of the AC of S, G-2, the intelligence functions of the German Military Documents Section and the Special Documents Section were similarly undertaken as a common service by CIA. As the backlog of captured documents diminished and more current Soviet and Far Eastern material was received, FDD provided the only corps of trained personnel which could exploit the up-to-date material. The centralized exploitation function of FDD thus shifted to include coverage of current foreign language publications as a result of the requirements of CIA and the IAC agencies. This central exploitation of selected foreign language newspapers, periodicals, scientific and technical journals, and other publications has been continued to date. With the exception of an uncleared operation under contract to the Air Forces, FDD is the only intelligence unit which systematically exploits foreign publications and disseminates the resultant information to all the intelligence agencies. In order to prevent such exploitation requirements from interfering with the translation service which FDD renders to other CIA Offices, separate provision was made for the latter function and 31% of the division T/O is now assigned to translation activities. The amount of translation provided by FDD is therefore not affected by the amount of exploitation performed.

b. In April 1949, CIA was asked by the Department of the Army to provide a service for "translation of intelligence material of recognized joint interest". An Ad Hoc committee of the IAC considered this proposal but determined that each of the intelligence agencies should continue to translate material of departmental interest, and that CIA should coordinate the intelligence-translation effort by master index and by publication of the Consolidated Translation Survey. The DCI also informed the other agencies that CIA would "continue

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to assist the IAC agencies by providing a limited amount of translation service in certain less common languages" and would "continue the exploitation of foreign language material of joint intelligence interest as a service of common concern within its present capabilities for the year 1950". These services have been continued through 1951.

c. From September to November 1949, consideration was given to the issuance of an NSCID charging CIA with the exploitation of foreign language publications in accordance with the final recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee. A draft was circulated in the IAC and agreement was nearly reached. Certain objections to the wording of the draft were raised, however, and the proposal was shelved. Revisions to eliminate these objections have been incorporated into the present draft (Tab B). It will be noted that the category of captured documents has been specifically excluded. Sufficient provision for access to such material has been made through arrangement for CIA participation in the proposed Armed Services Documents Intelligence Center (ASDIC).

3. Reasons for a Central Exploitation Service

a. In the absence of an NSCID, FDD has continued to operate in accordance with coordinated CIA-IAC requirements. There is an unavoidable overlapping in such exploitation requirements as follows: CIA offices require political, economic, psychological, and some military information; the Department of State requires political and economic and the Armed Services require economic and military information. Both CIA (OSI) and the Services require scientific and technical information. The biographic registers of CIA and the State Department need the same category of reporting. It is therefore clearly more expedient and efficient for one agency, such as CIA (FDD) to read the publications, extract the required information, and disseminate it to the respective using agencies. In this way, the common service activities of FDD have grown in response to urgent requests and without duplicating any other existing facilities. When one FDD publication, "Periodical Abstracts", was discontinued in 1951 an immediate protest was received from the Department of the Army, and the activity was resumed. It is anticipated that discontinuance of other forms of the present FDD exploitation service would be the subject of serious protests by the other IAC agencies.

b. CIA is largely dependent upon the other intelligence agencies for the overseas procurement of foreign publications and upon their cooperation in transmitting these to FDD for exploitation in the common benefit. Many Soviet publications are available in one copy only. If CIA should discontinue the central service, such publications would be retained by the departments of major interest which procure them and this Agency would be deprived of information which is needed by our own intelligence-production offices. Other agencies would be similarly deprived. In view of the overlapping requirements of the various

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intelligence agencies we believe that exploitation for the other IAC agencies can be coordinated with that which is required by CIA Offices and accomplished without necessarily expanding our present facilities. A majority of the publications must be exploited for economic, biographic, scientific, psychological, and certain other types of information to meet CIA requirements. It is feasible and efficient to extract and disseminate the political and military information simultaneously.

c. Qualified intelligence personnel with linguistic ability are in very short supply, and other agencies are not staffed to satisfy their exploitation needs independently. If they attempted to do so, there would be even keener competition for the inadequate number of suitable personnel available for recruitment.

d. The other IAC agencies have come to depend upon CIA for this type of service. We can, however, control the amount of exploitation performed for other agencies through the establishment of priorities for national intelligence, through the determination of common needs, and by limitations on personnel and budget. The size of FDD is also automatically limited by the lack of available linguists.

4. Need for an NSCID

We believe that there is some question as to the propriety of the performance by CIA of a service of common concern without explicit authorization of such a service by the NSC. In addition, the issuance of an NSCID would:

a. Clarify FDD's responsibility for the exploitation of foreign publications and provide a sound basis on which to direct such activities in the future.

b. Enable CIA to coordinate the procurement of foreign publications required for intelligence purposes, and to obtain access to single-copy publications for a sufficient length of time to exploit them in the common benefit.

c. Give CIA authority to coordinate such minor exploitation activities as are carried on either by the other intelligence agencies or under contract to them, in order to prevent duplication (as is currently done for translations by the Consolidated Translation Survey).

d. Allow CIA to assist the other agencies by exploiting documents of special interest in their possession which they are not equipped to handle. Such documents are often in the rarer languages and contain information of value which would not otherwise be available to CIA or any other agency.

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